FINAL

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE FORMER MANEUVER AREA A (FTBLS-002-R-01)

FORMER MANEUVER AREA A FORT BLISS EL PASO, TEXAS

Prepared for:

United States Army Corps of Engineers – Tulsa District 1645 S 101st East Avenue Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128



November 2016

Final

Proposed Plan for the Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01)

Fort Bliss El Paso, Texas

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Prepared for:



U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers –

Tulsa District 1645 S 101st East Avenue Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128-4609

Prepared by:



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The public is invited to comment on a Proposed Plan for the Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01) Munitions Response Site at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

November 7, 2016 to December 6, 2016

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: November 16, 2016
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Montana Vista Elementary School
3550 Mark Jason Drive
El Paso, TX 79938

Comments on the Proposed Plan will be accepted during the public comment period. Comments or questions concerning this Proposed Plan, or the Preferred Alternative, should be addressed to:

United States Army Corps of Engineers – Tulsa District Attn: Frank Roepke 1645 South 101st East Avenue Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128 Phone: (918) 669-7444

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For more information, please visit the Information Repositories, which contain project documentation such as work plans and reports:

Directorate of Public Works - Environmental (DPW-ED)

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Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas

1 INTRODUCTION

This Proposed Plan¹ (PP) identifies the Preferred Alternative for addressing munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) at the Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01) Munitions Response Site (MRS) at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. This PP provides the rationale for the selection of the Preferred Alternative and includes summaries of other alternatives evaluated for implementation at this site. This document is issued by the Department of the Army (Army). The Army, after coordinating with the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and reviewing and considering all information submitted during the public comment period and the public meetings, will select the final remedy for the site. The Army may modify the Preferred Alternative or select another response action presented in this PP based on new information, public comments, or regulator comments. Therefore, the public is encouraged to review and comment on all the alternatives presented in this PP.

The Army is the lead agency for the investigation and cleanup of the Site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Army is issuing this PP as part of the public participation responsibilities under Section 300.430(f)(2) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and Section 117(a) of CERCLA. This PP summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the Remedial Investigation (RI) (URS 2014) and Feasibility Study (FS) (URS 2015) Reports and other documents contained in the Administrative Record for this site. The Army and TCEQ encourage the public to review these documents to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the site and investigation activities that have been completed at the site. Stakeholder input (TCEQ and public) to this PP will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD) that documents the selected remedial action.

The Administrative Record is a compilation of the information that was considered in making the proposal presented in this PP, and presents a comprehensive description of the site investigation and proposed remediation activities. The Army will select the final remedy for the site after reviewing and discussing all available data, including information submitted during the 30-day public review period. This review period provides the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the alternatives and remedial action selected for FTBLS-002-R-01. The public is encouraged to review and comment on this PP.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

Fort Bliss is located in portions of Texas and New Mexico, near the city of El Paso, Texas. Of the approximately 1.12 million acres encompassed by the Fort Bliss installation, twelve percent of the installation's total land area is in El Paso County in west Texas, and the remaining 88 percent is in the New Mexico counties of Doña Ana and Otero. FTBLS-002-R-01 is located outside of the Fort Bliss installation boundary (to the east) in El Paso County, Texas. Figure 1 shows the boundaries of FTBLS-002-R-01, the location of the Fort Bliss, and the surrounding communities.

The Former Maneuver Area MR site was a transferred site comprised of portions of two adjacent former maneuver areas knows as the Expansion of Facilities Area (Maneuver Area No. 1) and Maneuver Area (Maneuver area No. 2), encompassing approximately 72,520 acres.

Prior reports indicate that the Former Maneuver Area Munitions Response Area (MRA) was used for various military training exercises from 1939 into the 1970s. The entire acreage was relinquished by the Army in 1980. A subsequent Site Inspection (SI) resulted in the MRA being divided into two MRSs: Former Maneuver Area A (24,477 acres) and Former Maneuver Area B (48,043 acres) (TLI solution, Inc. 2011). Former Maneuver Area B was recommended for no further action (NFA) while further investigation was recommended for Former Maneuver Area A.

An RI (URS 2014) was completed for Former Maneuver Area A. The RI consisted of visual survey observations, geophysical investigations, intrusive investigations, and munitions constituent (MC) sampling. Based on the results of the visual survey observations, twelve geophysical investigation areas were identified within the Former Maneuver Area A. These areas were identified as geophysical investigation areas A through L. MEC and munitions debris (MD) were identified within the geophysical investigation areas during the completion of the RI field work.

MEC identified during the RI was limited to geophysical investigation areas A, B, C, and D. These areas were recommended to retain the original MRS designation of Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01). Based on the absence of MEC, the limited number and sporadic distribution of the MD in the remaining areas, the portions of the Former Maneuver Area A MRS not included within the boundaries of FTBLS-002-R-01 were recommended to be subdivided into a new MRS designated as Uncontaminated Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01A).

¹ Boldfaced terms are defined in Section 12 – Glossary of Terms

During the development of the FS (URS 2015), the subdivision and naming of the MRSs was discussed with the Army Environmental Command. Based on the results of the discussion, in order to better facilitate any potential future remedial actions, the boundaries and names of the recommended MRSs in the RI have been revised. The Former Maneuver Area A MRS was subdivided into four MRSs (see Figure 1) rather than the two MRSs originally recommended in the RI. All four MRSs are named the Former Maneuver Area A and are distinguished by their new MRS identification numbers. The revision of the naming and the boundaries of the MRSs did not impact the conclusions and recommendations of the RI.

The MRS identified in the RI report as the Uncontaminated Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01A) was redesignated as Former Maneuver Area A (FTBLS-002-R-01). The MRS encompasses 23,356.99 acres and is divided into numerous parcels of varying size with approximately 2,514 landowners, although 83 percent of the MRS is owned by 21 landowners. The majority of the area is undeveloped, but portions of the MRS are currently developed with residential homes, commercial businesses, ranching, and light industry. Only the name of this MRS has been changed from the RI. The MRS boundary, land parcels included in the MRS, current/historical uses, total acreage, etc. remained unchanged from the RI.

3 SITE CHARACTERISTICS

FTBLS-002-R-01 includes residential homes, commercial businesses, light industry, and undeveloped land, and encompasses approximately 23,357 acres (**Figure 1**). None of the land associated with FTBLS-002-R-01 is currently owned or utilized by Fort Bliss. According to the RI, the MRS is currently owned by 2,514 landowners including state entities and private individuals. This MRS is part of the larger Former Maneuver Area MRA, which was used for various military training exercises from 1939 into the 1970s (URS 2015).

Information regarding threatened and endangered species with potential to occur in FTBLS-002-R-01 was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as part of the RI. This information identified threatened/endangered species that are reported to exist or potentially exist in El Paso County and require vegetative habitats that exist at the site. However, no endangered wildlife species were identified at FTBLS-002-R-01 during the completion of the RI fieldwork.

With the exception of the removal of MEC and MD items completed as part of the RI, no remedial actions have been completed at this MRS.

4 SCOPE AND ROLE OF THE RESPONSE ACTION

It is anticipated that the remedy selected following this PP will be the final action for FTBLS-002-R-01. The overall Army strategy is to decrease or eliminate the potential for munitions-related accidents resulting from human interaction with MEC. The preferred alternative is technically and administratively feasible and provides the best balance of cost and reduction of risk to human health. **Five-year reviews**, if required, will ensure the remedy remains protective.

5 SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS

During RI field activities, MD was identified throughout FTBLS-002-R-01. Based on the identified types and locations, MD is anticipated to be randomly dispersed throughout the MRS and related to training and maneuver activities. All risk pathways were identified as incomplete for the MRS (URS 2014).

Following the completion of the intrusive investigations, MC sampling was completed for soils located in representative 100 percent coverage grids and all blown-in-place (BIP) locations. Analytical results for explosives were compared to the Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) Total Soil Combined Exposures ($^{\text{Tot}}\text{Soil}_{\text{Comb}}$) and Soil to Groundwater Protection ($^{\text{GW}}\text{Soil}_{\text{lng}}$).

In accordance with TCEQ TRRP guidance for metals, the protective concentration level (PCL) was selected using the lower of the $^{Tot}Soil_{Comb}$ and $^{GW}Soil_{Ing}$. This PCL was then compared to the Texas Statewide Background level. The background level was utilized as the PCL if it was higher than the $^{Tot}Soil_{Comb}$ and $^{GW}Soil_{Ing}$.

MC sampling was performed for surface soils located in 3 grid sampling units deemed representative of the MRS. Grid sampling utilized an incremental sampling method. The incremental sampling was utilized for human health and ecological risk evaluations because it was considered to be more representative of the constituent concentrations across the entire MRS (URS 2015).

Human Health Risk Assessment

With the exception of lead, all sample results were below the human health screening levels. Lead concentrations were identified in excess of the human health screening level (1.5 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) ^{GW}Soil_{Ing}) in all three MC samples. However, the concentrations were below the state-wide background concentrations established by the TCEQ for lead (15 mg/kg). Based on the results of the MC

sampling, No Further Action (NFA) was recommended for MC at this MRS.

Ecological Risk Assessment

With the exception of lead, all sample results were below the ecological screening levels. Lead concentrations were identified in excess of the ecological screening level (11 mg/kg) in one of the three MC samples. However, the concentrations were below the state-wide background concentrations established by the TCEQ for lead (15 mg/kg). Based on the results of the MC sampling, NFA was recommended for MC at this MRS.

MEC Hazard Assessment

A MEC Hazard Assessment (HA) is completed using the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) method (USEPA 2008), which takes into account the severity, accessibility, and sensitivity of potential explosives hazards. However, as no MEC was identified at FTBLS-002-R-01, a MEC HA was not required or completed.

In 2005, the Department of Defense (DoD) published the Munitions Response Site Prioritization (MRSPP) as a Federal Rule (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 179) to assign a relative risk priority to each defense site in the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Inventory for response activities. Risk is based on the overall conditions at each MRS taking into consideration various factors related to explosive safety (i.e., MEC hazards) and environmental hazards (i.e., MC contamination). In accordance with the DoD MRSPP Primer (DoD 2007), each MRS is assigned an MRSPP Priority ranging from 1 to 8. Priority 1 indicates the highest potential hazard and Priority 8 indicates the lowest potential hazard. The overall MRSPP priority score for FTBLS-002-R-01 is The MRSPP worksheet tables are presented in Appendix E of the Final RI Report (URS 2014).

6 REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVE

The Remedial Action Objective for FTBLS-002-R-01 is as follows:

• Reduce the potential for direct contact with MEC by human receptors considering the current land uses and potential future land uses. Current/future receptors were identified as site workers, construction workers, hunters, ranchers, trespassers, residents, and/or ecological receptors. Current land uses include undeveloped land, residential housing, commercial facilities, light industrial facilities, and roads along with other infrastructure to support the developments. Future land uses are anticipated to be consistent with the current land uses.

7 SUMMARY OF REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES

Five alternatives were evaluated in the FS and are presented below. A detailed analysis of nine criteria and a comparative analysis, as required by the NCP, were completed for each alternative. A summary of the detailed analysis of the remedial action alternatives for FTBLS-002-R-01 is shown in **Table 1**.

The Preferred Alternative for FTBLS-002-R-01 is Alternative 2 – Public Awareness Program.

7.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 1 assumes that NFA would be taken regarding potential MEC at FTBLS-002-R-01. No land use controls (LUCs) would be implemented. This alternative provides value for comparing the other alternatives (i.e., no treatment, engineering controls, or institutional controls). This alternative would have no capital or operations and maintenance (O&M) costs. This alternative is required by the NCP for baseline comparison purposes (40 CFR 300.430[e][6]).

Estimated Costs for Alternative 1:

Capital Cost: \$0

Total O&M/Periodic Cost: \$0 Total Cost of Alternative: \$0

Total Present Value of Alternative: \$0

7.2 Alternative 2: Public Awareness Program

Alternative 2 includes a public awareness program to promote communication between the public and Fort Bliss, and to inform receptors of the risks associated with potential MEC at FTBLS-002-R-01. This alternative does not allow unrestricted use and unlimited exposure. Five-year reviews (a minimum frequency of once every five years after initiation of the selected remedial action) would be required to evaluate the continued effectiveness and permanence of this alternative.

The public awareness program would be implemented in accordance with the Fort Bliss Community Relations Plan. Public may include federal, regional, state, local, and Native American governmental entities and officials; public and private organizations; and individuals. The Fort Bliss MMRP public awareness program may consist of, but would not be limited to, the following:

- Maintaining the administrative record and information repository
- Preparing and issuing press releases
- Preparing and distributing fact sheets

- Updating the Public Affairs Mailing List
- Public meetings

The administrative record file includes documents such as site reports, technical summaries, transcripts, press releases, and fact sheets. The current administrative record file for the MMRP is located on Fort Bliss.

Prepared statements would be released to local newspapers and/or radio and television stations as needed. The news releases would be mailed to the media and placed in the information repository. Fact sheets would be prepared as required. Fact sheets would be mailed to all parties on the Public Affairs Mailing List. In addition, copies of each fact sheet would be placed in the information repository.

Public meetings would be held as required to discuss any additional information pertinent to the public regarding the MRS. Public notices announcing public meetings would be placed in the appropriate local media, and the meetings would be held at locations convenient to the community.

Estimated Costs for Alternative 2:

Capital Cost: \$88,406

Total O&M/Periodic Costs for 30 Years: \$189,750

Total Cost of Alternative: \$278,156

Total Present Value of Alternative: \$231,279

7.3 Alternative 3: Land Use Controls

Alternative 3 would not be effective for FTBLS-002-R-01. The MRS encompasses 23,357 acres divided into numerous parcels of varying size with approximately 2,514 landowners. None of the property located within the MRS is currently owned or used by Fort Bliss. Since the property is not owned by Fort Bliss, implementation of this remedy would require the approval and participation of the landowners. Engineering controls would not be effective at limiting receptor exposure to MEC.

MEC items were not discovered on the surface or within the subsurface of this MRS. The amount of MD items found within this MRS was minimal and not indicative of a high density area (i.e., target or demolition/disposal area) where MEC would be anticipated.

This alternative was included in this PP to maintain consistency with the FS document (numbering of alternatives, comparison discussions, etc.). No costs were developed for implementing this alternative at FTBLS-002-R-01.

Estimated Costs for Alternative 3: Capital Cost: Not Applicable (N/A) Total O&M/Periodic Costs for 30 Years: N/A

Total Cost of Alternative: N/A

Total Present Value of Alternative: N/A

7.4 Alternative 4: MEC Surface Clearance

Alternative 4 includes a MEC surface clearance for FTBLS-002-R-01 (23,357 acres) (Figure 2). MEC surface clearances involve removal and disposal of MEC, material potentially presenting an explosive hazard (MPPEH), and MD identified on the ground surface. A MEC surface clearance for the MRS would reduce the risk of site receptors encountering surface MEC, but would not address subsurface MEC or the potential for subsurface MEC to be exposed on the surface through erosion. According to Unified Facilities Criteria 3-301-01 (DoD 2013), the depth of the frost line for Fort Bliss is 0 inches; therefore, the potential for frost heave migration is considered an insignificant pathway. With the potential for subsurface MEC, the public awareness program described in Alternatives 2 is included in conjunction with the MEC surface clearance activities for FTBLS-002-R-01. Additionally, LUCs (i.e. warning signs and fences) would be installed as part of this alternative to limit human exposure to the MRS.

The MEC surface clearances would be completed by qualified personnel (e.g., DoD explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) or Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)qualified personnel) using hand-held detectors (e.g., Schonstedt GA-52Cx magnetometer, a White's Spectrum XLT all-metals detector). A typical surface clearance process involves vegetation removal, partitioning the MRSs into grids, followed by a systematic surface sweep of the grids to remove MEC and possibly other metallic debris. Completing a MEC surface clearance typically requires a Senior UXO Supervisor (SUXOS) responsible for planning and directing MEC operations; a UXO Safety Officer (UXOSO) to ensure that work is performed safely; a UXO Quality Control Specialist (UXOQCS) to ensure the work is performed in accordance with rules, regulations, and planning documents; and UXO technicians.

MPPEH items would be subjected to an MPPEH inspection process in accordance with an approved Explosives Safety Submission (ESS), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering Manual (EM) 385-1-97 and Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4140.62 (DoD 2014). MPPEH would be inspected by a UXO Technician III and Technician II to determine the explosive hazard and appropriate disposal method. MEC that is unacceptable

to move would be BIP and MEC that is determined acceptable to move would be consolidated by qualified UXO personnel for later disposal in a consolidated shot. MPPEH certified as material documented as safe (MDAS) would be reclassified and segregated into MD, range-related debris (RRD), or other debris and disposed of at a local landfill or recycler, as appropriate.

Based on the absence of MEC items identified at the MRS, the field time to complete this alternative was calculated using the time anticipated to complete a surface clearance of the MRS based on its total acreage. UXO teams will complete systematic sweeps with magnetometers over the surveyed grids.

FTBLS-002-R-01 encompasses 23,357 acres. Completion of a surface clearance for the MRS is anticipated to require approximately 467 days (117 weeks) to complete. This would require approximately three field seasons to complete. This length of time is based on the assumption that two 20-man UXO teams would complete the MEC surface clearance for 23,357 acres at a rate of 50 acres per day, working four 10-hour days per week.

This alternative does not allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. Five-year reviews (a minimum frequency of once every five years after initiation of the selected remedial action) would be required to evaluate the continued effectiveness and permanence of this alternative. Annual site inspections would be completed until the first five-year review. Following the first five-year review, the site inspection frequency would be adjusted based on the effectiveness of the remedy.

None of the property located within the FTBLS-002-R-01 is owned or used by Fort Bliss. Since the property is not owned by Fort Bliss, implementation of this remedy will require the approval and participation of the landowners.

Estimated Costs for Alternative 4: Capital Cost: \$33,651,339

Total O&M/Periodic Costs for 30 Years: \$461,099

Total Cost of Alternative: \$34,112,438

Total Present Value of Alternative: \$33,997,793

7.5 Alternative 5: MEC Surface Clearance and MEC Subsurface Removal

Alternative 5 includes the MEC surface clearances described in Alternative 4 and includes MEC subsurface removal actions for FTBLS-002-R-01 (23,357 acres) (**Figure 3**). None of the property located within the MRS is owned or used by Fort Bliss. Since the property is not owned by Fort Bliss, implementation

of this remedy will require the approval and participation of the landowners. The MEC surface clearances and MEC subsurface removals involve removal and disposal of MEC, MPPEH, and MD. For this alternative, it is assumed that the subsurface removal actions would generally be completed to depths of less than 4 feet below ground surface at the MRS. MEC surface clearance and MEC subsurface removal would significantly reduce the risk of encountering MEC at the MRS.

Following the completion of the MEC surface clearance, a MEC subsurface removal action would be completed. The MEC subsurface removal action would include a comprehensive analog survey to mag and flag subsurface anomalies, which would then be removed by hand removal methods.

A MEC subsurface removal action would be completed by qualified personnel (e.g., DoD EOD or UXO-qualified personnel) using hand-held detectors (e.g., Schonstedt GA-52Cx magnetometer, a White's Spectrum XLT all-metals detector), shovels, and/or earth moving machinery. A typical MEC subsurface removal action involves acquiring targets, removing targets, and resolving target locations. Completing a MEC subsurface removal action typically requires a SUXOS responsible for planning and directing MEC operations; a UXOSO to ensure that work is performed safely; a UXOQCS to ensure the work is performed in accordance with rules, regulations, and planning documents; and UXO technicians.

MPPEH items would be subjected to an inspection process in accordance with an approved ESS, USACE EM 385-1-97 and DoDI 4140.62 (DoD 2014). MPPEH would be inspected by a UXO Technician III and Technician II to determine the explosive hazard and appropriate disposal method. MEC that is unacceptable to move would be BIP and MEC that is determined acceptable to move would be consolidated by qualified UXO personnel for later disposal in a consolidated shot. MPPEH certified as MDAS would be reclassified and segregated into MD, RRD, or other debris and disposed of at a local landfill or recycler, as appropriate.

The estimated quantity of potential anomalies for FTBLS-002-R-01 was calculated using data obtained from the RI's DGM and intrusive investigation results. The RI geophysical investigation for this MRS covered 119,711 linear feet and 5 grids with nominal dimensions of 100 feet by 100 feet. Assuming a 2.5-foot coverage width for DGM transect survey, the approximate area covered for this MRS was 349,278 square feet or 8.0 acres. A total of 478 target anomalies were identified by DGM. The average density for the investigated areas was 60 target anomalies per acre.

Since the RI grid selection was biased towards areas with greater anomaly densities, this number may represent a higher than normal density than the remainder of the MRS. Visual Sampling Plan geostatistical density mapping indicated the density of anomalies is low throughout the MRS. The average anomaly density for this MRS is estimated to be 10 anomalies per acre.

This alternative, if worked sequentially, is estimated to take eight field seasons to complete. The length of time for the MEC surface clearance is based on the assumptions that two 20-man UXO teams would complete the MEC surface clearance of 23,357 acres at a rate of 50 acres per day, working four days per week. The length of time for the MEC subsurface removal action is based on the assumptions that five 7-man UXO teams would investigate and resolve an estimated 233,570 anomalies over 23,357 acres at a rate of 30 acres per day, working four days per week.

None of the property located within the FTBLS-002-R-01 is owned or used by Fort Bliss. Since the property is not owned by Fort Bliss, implementation of this remedy will require the approval and participation of the landowners.

Estimated Costs for Alternative 5: Capital Cost: \$85,797,825 Total O&M/Periodic Costs: \$0 Total Cost of Alternative: \$85,797,825

Total Present Value of Alternative: \$85,797,825

8 EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Nine evaluation criteria are statutory criteria required by the NCP (40 CFR 300) and described in the Guidance for Conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (USEPA 1988). The nine criteria were used to evaluate the different alternatives individually and against each other in order to select a remedy. These nine criteria are segregated into three groups and are briefly described below.

Threshold criteria are requirements that each alternative must meet in order to be selected. There are two threshold criteria, as listed below:

• Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment determines whether an alternative eliminates, reduces, or controls threats to public health and the environment.

• Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) evaluates whether the alternative meets federal and state environmental statutes, regulations, and other requirements that pertain to the site, or whether a waiver is justified.

Primary balancing criteria are used to weigh major trade-offs among alternatives. There are five balancing criteria, as listed below:

- Short-Term Effectiveness considers the length of time needed to implement an alternative and the risks the alternative poses to workers, residents, and the environment during implementation.
- Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence considers the ability of an alternative to maintain protection of human health and the environment over time.
- Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, and Volume through Treatment evaluates an alternative's use of treatment to reduce the harmful effects of principal contaminants, their ability to move in the environment, and the amount of contamination present.
- Implementability considers the technical and administrative feasibility of implementing the alternative, including factors such as the relative availability of goods and services.
- Cost includes estimated capital and annual operations and maintenance costs. Cost estimates are expected to be accurate within a range of +50% to -30%.

Modifying criteria may be considered to the extent that information is available during the FS, but can be fully considered only after public comment is received on the PP. In the final balancing of trade-offs among alternatives upon which the final remedy selection is based, modifying criteria are of equal importance to the balancing criteria. There are two modifying criteria, as listed below:

- State Acceptance considers whether the state agrees with the Army analyses and recommendations, as described in the FS and this PP.
- Community Acceptance considers whether the local community agrees with the Army analyses and Preferred Alternative. Comments received on the PP are an important indicator of community acceptance.

The five alternatives requiring detailed analysis were evaluated against the nine criteria identified above. The detailed analysis summary can be found in **Table 1**. In

addition, an analysis was completed to compare the alternatives against each other in order to determine the Preferred Alternative. The comparison of the alternatives to the nine evaluation criteria is discussed below. As Alternative 3 was not retained for evaluation, it is not included in the comparison of the alternatives presented below.

8.1 Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Alternative 1 is the least protective of the alternatives. Alternative 2 provides a low level of protection for human health through the public awareness program. Alternatives 1 and 2 do not provide any reduction in explosive hazards and MEC, if any, would not be eliminated or reduced. Risks to current and future receptors would remain indefinitely. Alternatives 4 and 5 provide greater levels of protection than Alternatives 1 and 2 by eliminating or reducing the amount of MEC, if any, through MEC removal actions. Alternative 5 is considered the most protective of human health due to the removal of MEC from the surface and subsurface. MEC is not expected to have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem.

8.2 Compliance with ARARs

Planning would be required for Alternatives 4 and 5 to comply with chemical-specific, location-specific, and action-specific ARARs. Compliance with ARARs for Alternatives 4 and 5 would require planning due to regulations governing the transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of MEC items during surface and/or surface clearances as well as the potential impact to endangered species due to the disruptive nature of surface clearance activities in the endangered species habitat.

8.3 Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence

Alternative 1 does not provide long-term effectiveness and permanence for the MRSs because potential exposure pathways between site receptors and MEC would remain. Alternative 2 provides some long-term effectiveness and permanence through implementation of a public awareness program. The overall effectiveness of the public awareness program would depend on the support, involvement, and willingness of site receptors (e.g., local agencies, landowners). Alternatives 4 and 5 provide greater long-term permanence effectiveness and because these alternatives include removal of MEC and reduction of potential exposures. Alternative 4 only includes surface MEC removal, which is less effective in the long-term when compared to the removal of surface and subsurface MEC in Alternative 5. With regards to

residual risk, there would remain a risk of potential MEC hazards for all five alternatives. The greatest reduction in risk would be achieved with Alternative 5, which provides the greatest long-term effectiveness and permanence.

8.4 Reduction of TMV through Treatment

Toxicity and mobility factors are not specifically applicable to MEC. Alternatives 1 and 2 do not provide any reduction in the volume of MEC. Alternative 4 includes reduction in the volume of surface MEC and Alternative 5 includes a reduction in the volume of surface and subsurface MEC. Reduction in MEC for Alternatives 4 and 5 would be accomplished through MEC disposal operations (i.e., BIP or consolidated shot).

8.5 Short-Term Effectiveness

Alternatives 1 and 2 have no short-term impacts to the community, workers, or the environment. Alternatives 4 and 5 have minimal impacts to the community. Workers who install the signs would potentially be exposed to surface and/or subsurface MEC, but UXO safety support procedures would be utilized to lower the risk of MEC interaction. Alternatives 4 and 5 pose the highest potential risks to site workers from the handling of MEC, if any, during MEC surface clearance and MEC subsurface removal actions. Appropriately trained personnel, safety procedures, protective equipment, and approved documents (e.g., ESS) would be used to reduce impacts to the workers, environment, and community. The duration of worker exposure to potential safety hazards would be dependent on available resources to complete the fieldwork.

8.6 Implementability

Alternative 1 has no action to implement. Alternatives 2, 4, and 5 are technically feasible and the services and materials necessary to implement the alternatives are available.

Alternative 2 has no construction activities to implement and right-of-entry (ROE) agreements would not be required. Administratively, a process substantially similar to this alternative was implemented at Fort Bliss (i.e., Community Involvement Plan) during the RI; therefore, this alternative is considered administratively feasible.

Alternatives 4 and 5 would be difficult to implement administratively. FTBLS-002-R-01 is currently owned by 2,514 landowners including state entities and private individuals. None of the land associated with the MRSs is currently owned or used by Fort Bliss.

Therefore, ROE agreements, or similar instruments, would be required by the Army to allow access to these properties. For the RI, ROE agreements were obtained from 1,000 land owners while 36 land owners declined to allow access to their property. The ROE agreements obtained allowed access to a total of 21,978 acres (89.9 percent) of FTBLS-002-R-01. The remaining landowners were unresponsive to the ROE request. With the exception of Alternative 1, in comparison to the other alternatives, Alternative 2 is the easiest to implement.

8.7 Cost

The total estimated costs for implementing the alternatives at the MRS are as follows:

- Alternative 1 (No Action) (\$0) No associated capital, O&M, or periodic costs.
- Alternative 2 (Public Awareness Program)
 (\$278,156) Capital costs include labor and
 materials for implementation of a public awareness
 program. Periodic costs for five-year reviews
 include continued public awareness and
 participation, and administrative record review.
- Alternative 4 (MEC Surface Clearance) (\$34,112,438) – Capital costs include labor and materials for the implementation of LUCs and the MEC surface clearance. Periodic costs for fiveyear reviews include site inspection and maintenance, continued public awareness and participation, and administrative record review.
- Alternative 5 (MEC Surface Clearance and MEC Subsurface Removal) (\$85,797,825) Capital costs include labor and materials for the MEC surface clearance and MEC subsurface removal. There are no periodic costs associated with this alternative.

8.8 State Acceptance

State acceptance cannot be assessed until comments on the PP are received. Modifying criteria (State and Community Acceptance) are considered in the remedy selection process.

8.9 Community Acceptance

Community acceptance cannot be assessed until comments on the PP are received. Modifying criteria (State and Community Acceptance) are considered in the remedy selection process.

9 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

During the RI visual survey, 119,711 linear feet of transects were completed and 34 MD items were

identified on the surface of FTBLS-002-R-01. During RI intrusive investigation activities, 478 anomalies were investigated and 25 MD items were identified in the subsurface of FTBLS-002-R-01. No MEC items were identified on the surface or in the subsurface of the MRS. No potentially complete pathways for interactions between MEC sources and receptors were identified during the RI. Based on the RI data, MEC is not anticipated to be found in surface or subsurface soil within the MRS.

The amount of MD items found within FTBLS-002-R-01 was minimal and not indicative of a high density area (i.e., target or demolition/disposal area) where MEC would be anticipated. Furthermore, the MD items found at the MRS have no associated explosive hazards.

Based on the evaluation of the alternatives with respect to the threshold and balancing criteria and in comparison with each other, the Preferred Alternative for FTBLS-002-R-01 is Alternative 2 - Public Awareness Program. The Army believes that Alternative 2 meets the threshold criteria, is technically and administratively feasible, and provides the best balance of cost and reduction of risk to human health among the other alternatives with respect to the balancing and modifying criteria. The Army expects the Preferred Alternative to satisfy the following statutory requirements of CERCLA §121(b): (1) be protective of human health and the environment; (2) comply with ARARs (or justify a waiver); (3) be costeffective; (4) utilize permanent solutions and alternative treatment technologies or resource recovery technologies to the maximum extent practicable; and (5) satisfy the preference for treatment as a principal element, or explain why the preference for treatment will not be met.

Alternative 2 is technically and administratively feasible (a process substantially similar to this alternative was implemented at Fort Bliss during the RI), could be implemented without obtaining ROE agreements, and provides the best balance of long-term effectiveness and cost.

10 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Information regarding the cleanup at FTBLS-002-R-01 is provided to the public through the issuance of information and documents to property owners, the Administrative Record file for the site, and announcements published in the El Diario de El Paso and the El Paso Times newspapers. The public is encouraged to refer to these sources to stay informed on issues pertaining to the restoration activities.

In accordance with the NCP, an Administrative Record file has been established for Fort Bliss. The contents of

the file include a variety of written material, such as pieces of correspondence, data reports, assessments, plans, newspaper articles, notices, and fact sheets. The Administrative Record files are located at the Information Repository (e.g., Directorate of Public Works – Environmental [DPW-ED]).

The Army is soliciting input from the community on this PP. The comment period will extend from November 7, 2016 to December 6, 2016. Written comments must be postmarked no later than the last day of the public comment period, December 6, 2016. Comments or questions concerning this PP, or the Preferred Alternative, should be addressed to Mr. Frank Roepke.

During the comment period, one public meeting will be held to present the PP and to answer questions relevant to the PP. Following the public meeting, the comments received on this PP will be summarized and responses provided in the Responsiveness Summary section of the ROD. The ROD will present the final selected remedy for the site.

Public Comment Period November 7, 2016 to December 6, 2016

Public Meeting

Wednesday November 16, 2016 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Montana Vista Elementary School 3550 Mark Jason Drive El Paso, Texas 79938

Contact for Comments/Questions?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tulsa District
Attn: (b) (6)
1645 South 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128
Phone: ((b) (6)
E-mail: 1(b) (6)

Information Repository

Directorate of Public Works – Environmental (DPW-ED) Building 622 Taylor Road Fort Bliss, Texas 79916

11 REFERENCES

DoD. 2007. Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol Draft Primer, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Installations and Environment, Office of Environmental Management. April.

DoD. 2013. Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) Structural Engineering.

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TLI Solutions, Inc. 2009. MMRP Final Historical Records Review. Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. October.

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URS. 2014. Final Remedial Investigation Report. Former Maneuver Area A, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. November.

URS. 2015. Draft Final Feasibility Study. Former Maneuver Area A, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. September.

USEPA. 1988. Guidance for Conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

USEPA. 2008. Interim Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment Methodology Document. EPA 505-B-08-001. October.

12 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Administrative Record: A compilation of all documents relied upon to select a remedial action pertaining to the investigation and remediation of the project site.

Applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs): The Federal and State environmental laws that a selected remedy will meet. These requirements may vary among sites and alternatives.

Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, otherwise known as Superfund): A federal law that addresses problems resulting from releases of hazardous substances to the environment. This law also establishes criteria for the creation of key documents such as the RI, FS, PP, and ROD.

Feasibility Study (FS): A FS evaluates possible remedies using the information generated from the RI. The FS becomes the basis for selection of a remedy

that effectively eliminates the threat posed by contaminants at the site.

Five-Year Review: Required when a remedy will result in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining on-site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. A review is conducted within five years after initiation of remedial action to ensure that the remedy is, or will be, protective of human health and the environment.

Munitions Constituents (MC): Any materials originating from UXO, discarded military munitions, or other military munitions, including explosive and non-explosive materials, and emission, degradation, or breakdown elements of such ordnance or munitions.

Munitions Debris (MD): Remnants of munitions (e.g., penetrators, projectiles, shell casings, links, fins) remaining after munitions use, demilitarization or disposal. MD is confirmed inert and free of explosive hazards by technically-qualified personnel.

Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC): This term, which distinguishes specific categories of military munitions that may pose unique explosives safety risks, means: (a) UXO; (b) discarded military munitions; or (c) explosive MC present in high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard.

Preferred Alternative: The alternative that, when compared to other potential alternatives, was determined to best meet the CERCLA evaluation criteria and is proposed for implementation at a site.

Proposed Plan (PP): A plan that identifies the preferred remedial alternative for a site, and is made available to the public for comment.

Record of Decision (ROD): The ROD documents the remedial action plan for a site and performs the following functions: it certifies that the remedial selection process was carried out in accordance with CERCLA and NCP; it describes the technical parameters of the remedy; and it provides the public with a consolidated summary of information about the site, the selected remedy, and the rationale for the selection.

Remedial Investigation (RI): An exploratory inspection conducted at a site to define the nature and extent of contamination present.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO): Military munitions that: (a) have been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for action; (b) have been fired, dropped, launched, projected, or placed in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to operations, installations, personnel, or material; and (c) remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause.

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS

Your input on the Proposed Plan for FTBLS-002-R-01 at Fort Bliss is important to the Army and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. Comments provided by the public are valuable in helping select a final cleanup remedy for the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold and mail to:

United States Army Corps of Engineers – Tulsa District Attn: Frank Roepke 1645 South 101st East Avenue Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128

comments must be postmar period or the Proposed Plan communication capabilities	n, please contact	(b) (6)		Those with electronic
address: (b) (6)				
Name:				
Address:				
City:	S	state:	Zip:	

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF DETAILED ANALYSIS OF REMEDIAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

EVALUATION	Alternative 1 -	Alternative 2 -	Alternative 3 -	Alternative 4 -	Alternative 5 - MEC Surface Clearance and MEC
CRITERIA	No Action	Public Awareness Program	Land Use Controls	MEC Surface Clearance	Subsurface Removal
	TION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE EN		27/4		I mit i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i
Human Health Protection	This alternative provides no protection to human health and does not provide any reduction in explosive hazards. MEC, if any, would not be eliminated, reduced, or controlled through treatment, engineering, and/or LUCs.	This alternative provides a low level of protection to human health and does not provide any reduction in explosive hazards. MEC, if any, would not be eliminated, reduced, or controlled through treatment, engineering, or LUCs. Alternative 2 provides a public awareness program to promote communication between the public and Fort Bliss, and to inform receptors of the potential MEC risks associated with the MRS.	N/A	This alternative provides a medium level of protection to human health and a medium level reduction in explosive hazards on the surface of the MRS by eliminating or reducing the amount of surface MEC. Potential subsurface MEC interactions would be limited through LUCs (fencing and warning signs).	This alternative provides a high level of protection to human health and a high level of reduction in explosive hazards on the surface and subsurface of the MRS by eliminating or reducing the amount of surface and subsurface MEC.
Environmental Protection	MEC is not expected to have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem.	MEC is not expected to have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem.	N/A	MEC is not expected to have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem.	MEC is not expected to have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem.
COMPLIANCE WITH	I ARARs				
Compliance with ARARs	No applicable ARARs	No applicable ARARs	N/A	Planning would be required to comply with chemical-specific, location-specific, and action-specific ARARs.	Planning would be required to comply with chemical-specific, location-specific, and action-specific ARARs.
LONG-TERM EFFEC	TIVENESS				
Magnitude of Residual Risk	Risks to potential future receptors would remain indefinitely.	Risks to potential future receptors would remain indefinitely.	N/A	Risks to potential future receptors would remain for intrusive activities and for any potentially unidentified MEC.	Risks to potential receptors would remain for any potentially unidentified MEC.
Adequacy and Reliability of Controls	N/A	The overall effectiveness of this alternative would depend on the support, involvement, and willingness of local agencies and landowners.	N/A	The MEC surface clearances would effectively reduce the probability of encountering MEC at the surface of the MRSs. However, this alternative does not address the risk associated with subsurface MEC, where a large percentage of MEC is anticipated to be found. Over time, subsurface MEC may be exposed at the surface through erosion. Risks to receptors completing intrusive activities within the MRS would remain. Since subsurface MEC would not be removed, LUCs (fencing and warning signs) would still be required.	The MEC surface clearances and MEC subsurface removals would effectively reduce the probability of encountering MEC at the surface and within the subsurface of the MRS.
	XICITY, MOBILITY, AND VOLUME				
Treatment Process Used		None	N/A	Disposal of MEC by detonation.	Disposal of MEC by detonation.
Reduction of TMV	None	None	N/A	Total volume of MEC would be reduced by the amount removed from the surface.	Total volume of MEC would be reduced by the amount removed from the surface and subsurface.
SHORT-TERM EFFEC					
Time Required to Achieve Remedial Action Objectives	Indefinite	Indefinite	N/A	RAO would be met upon implementation of LUCs and completion of the remedial action. The time required for the MEC surface clearance would be dependent on available resources.	RAO would be met upon completion of the remedial action. The time required for the MEC surface clearances and MEC subsurface removals would be dependent on available resources.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF DETAILED ANALYSIS OF REMEDIAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Alternative 1 - No Action	Alternative 2 - Public Awareness Program	Alternative 3 - Land Use Controls	Alternative 4 - MEC Surface Clearance	Alternative 5 - MEC Surface Clearance and MEC Subsurface Removal
Protection of Community During Remedial Action	No action taken.	No action taken.	N/A	Potential short-term impacts may include increased traffic flow on public roads used by the trucks to transport fence and sign materials; however, these potential impacts are expected to be minimal and would not require extensive planning. MEC field activities could potentially involve additive short-term impacts to the community during MEC disposal operations. Appropriately trained personnel, safety procedures, protective equipment, and approved planning documents (e.g., ESS) would be used to reduce impacts to the workers, environment, and community.	MEC field activities could potentially involve additive short-term impacts to the community during MEC disposal operations. Appropriately trained personnel, safety procedures, protective equipment, and approved planning documents (e.g., ESS) would be used to reduce impacts to the workers, environment, and community.
Protection of Workers During Remedial Action	No action taken.	No action taken.	N/A	The MEC surface clearance poses a moderate to high risk to site workers during MEC-related activities. Appropriately trained personnel, safety procedures, protective equipment, and approved planning documents would be used to reduce impacts to the workers, environment, and community.	The MEC fieldwork poses a moderate to high risk to site workers during MEC-related activities. Appropriately trained personnel, safety procedures, protective equipment, and approved planning documents would be used to reduce impacts to the workers, environment, and community.
IMPLEMENTABILITY	Y	I	<u> </u>		
Technical Feasibility	N/A	Alternative uses well-established processes that are technically feasible.	N/A	Alternative uses well-established processes that are technically feasible.	Alternative uses well-established processes that are technically feasible.
Administrative Feasibility	N/A	Alternative is considered administratively feasible. This alternative has no construction activities to implement and ROE agreements would not be required. Administratively, a process substantially similar to this alternative was implemented at Fort Bliss (i.e., Community Relations Plan) during the RI.	N/A	Administratively, implementation of Alternative 4 could be difficult. FTBLS-002-R-01 encompasses 23,357 acres owned by approximately 2,514 landowners. None of the land associated with FTBLS-002-R-01 is currently owned or used by Fort Bliss.	Administratively, implementation of Alternative 5 could be difficult. FTBLS-002-R-01 encompasses 23,357 acres owned by approximately 2,514 landowners. None of the land associated with FTBLS-002-R-01 is currently owned or used by Fort Bliss.
Availability of services and materials	N/A	Services and materials are readily available.	N/A	Detection and disposal technologies are readily available and moderately easy to implement. Field activities would require extensive logistic support and planning due to land ownership.	Detection and disposal technologies are readily available and moderately easy to implement. Field activities would require extensive logistic support and planning due to land ownership.
COST					
Total Cost of Alternative	\$0	\$278,156	N/A	\$34,112,438	\$85,797,825

ARAR = Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements

N/A = Not ApplicableESS = Explosives Safety Submission RAO = Remedial Action Objective

LUC = land use control

RI = Remedial Investigation

MEC = munitions and explosives of concern

ROE = right-of-entry

TMV = Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume MRS = munitions response site





